



A Culture of Encounter: Be the Church

He Ahurea Tūtaki ki Ētahi atu:
Me Noho ko Koutou te Hāhi

LITURGY RESOURCE

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time – Year B

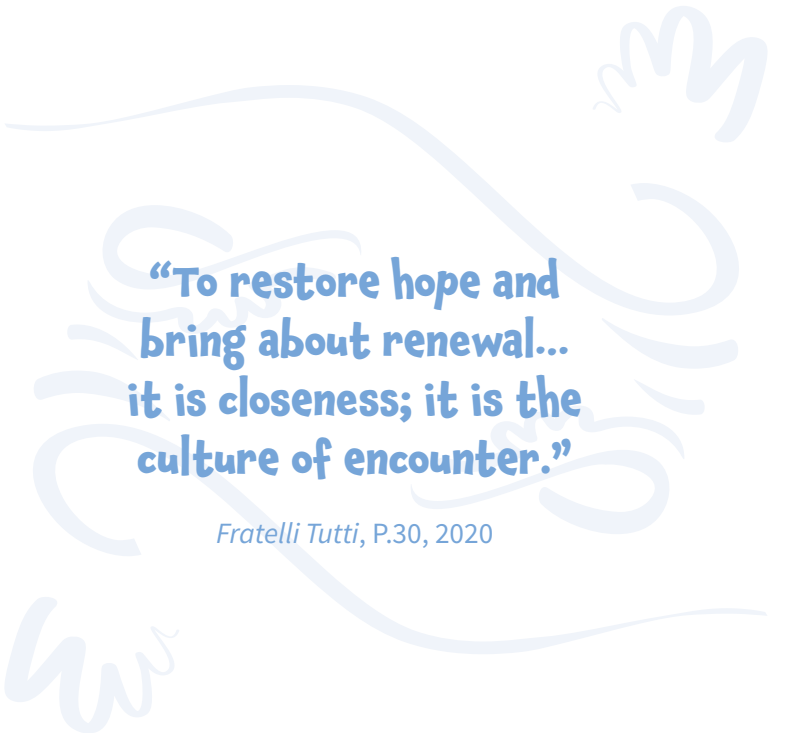
12 September 2021



SOCIAL JUSTICE WEEK
TE WIKI O TE WHAI TIKA
www.caritas.org.nz

 **Caritas**
AOTEAROA NEW ZEALAND
The Catholic Agency for Justice, Peace & Development





**“To restore hope and
bring about renewal...
it is closeness; it is the
culture of encounter.”**

Fratelli Tutti, P.30, 2020

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How to use this booklet

Me pēwhea te whakamahi i tēnei pukapuka

The hope for this booklet is to assist parish priests, parish leadership and liturgy committees in considering how their parish can include the Social Justice Week theme in their Sunday celebration and activities during and beyond the week.

This booklet is split into three sections:

Section 1: SEE – TIROHIA introduces the theme and includes the statement from the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference.

Section 2: JUDGE – WĀNANGATIA provides information on the Catholic social teaching (CST) and relevant pieces of Scripture. This is to assist in your understanding of the Social Justice Week topic.

Section 3: ACT – MAHIA provides resources specifically for the Mass on Social Justice Week Sunday, as well as ideas for activities for your community outside of the Mass.

We understand that parishes will choose to take some ideas and leave others, or come up with new ones entirely. Ultimately, we hope that each parish can continue to share the gift of the Church's social teaching with their community – both in formation but more importantly in action.

For more in depth resources on Catholic social teaching and stories of hope, please visit our website at www.caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week. These can be used for discussion groups, social justice groups, and personal use.

What is Social Justice Week?

He aha tēnei mea te Wīki o te Whai Tikā?

Social Justice Week was established by the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference in 1997 as an ongoing commitment in the Catholic calendar. This is a time to consider, reflect and take action on a particular current social justice issue in the light of Catholic social teaching.

Social Justice Week falls during the liturgical season of Ordinary Time, and near the beginning of the Season of Creation. This is a period in which the liturgical readings teach us about discipleship.

This year the Social Justice Week theme is: **Encounter and Community.**

Why include liturgy notes for Social Justice Week?

“A real concern today is that liturgy and social justice tend to be treated as two unrelated activities in the life of the Church... the equality we know at the table of Christ’s Body must be celebrated at all other tables.”

Cardinal Thomas Williams said these words in 1997 at a “Love in Action Day” during an address to a gathering of Catholic charity and social justice groups.

Our liturgical gathering on the Sunday reminds us of Church as community and as a family united in prayer. The mercy and compassion we receive from God flows out into the rest of our week and into our relationships in our wider community.

This book has been prepared with the support of the National Liturgy Office – Te Tari ā Motu Mō Nga Ritenga.

SECTION 1: SEE TIROHIA

New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference Statement on encounter and community

He whakapuaki nā te Huinga Pihopa Katorika o Aotearoa mō
te tūtaki me te hapori”

A Culture of Encounter – a call to social friendship as a single human family

In Aotearoa New Zealand, along with many other parts of the world, we are seeing the rise of racism including the violent mosque attacks in Christchurch. Debates about historic injustices and enduring economic inequalities are often marked with bitter vitriolic commentary. We find it increasingly difficult to have informed public debates about new challenges presented by the Covid-19 pandemic in the midst of the misinformation which quickly spreads in the digital world. It can be tempting in the face of such difficult questions to withdraw from others, or to restrict our engagement only to people who share our own views, especially when public discussion is confrontational, angry and even abusive. However, Pope Francis reminds us that “isolation and withdrawal into one’s own interests are never the way to restore hope and bring about renewal. Rather it is closeness; it is the culture of encounter.” (*Fratelli Tutti* 30).

In his recent encyclical, *Fratelli Tutti* (literally Brothers and Sisters all), Pope Francis points out the irony of our world becoming more and more connected through technology while also becoming more distant in our personal relationships and neighbourhoods. Face to face communication, kanohi ki te kanohi, is foundational for enduring relationships between neighbours, friends and whānau. With more time spent on social media without authentic

connections, people become increasingly isolated, lonely and less resilient. Pope Francis says “no one can face life in isolation... we need a community that supports and helps us, in which we can help one another to keep looking ahead.” (FT 8). Francis calls for a closeness marked by *manaakitanga* – hospitality, reciprocity and social friendship.

The Pope’s reflections in *Fratelli Tutti* are not new in our tradition of Catholic social teaching or our Gospel values. In 1931, Pope Pius XI, reflecting on the first social encyclical, Pope Leo XIII’s *Rerum Novarum*, introduced the concept of ‘social charity.’ In his papacy St John Paul II developed an understanding of ‘solidarity’. Now in, his time, Pope Francis describes a need for ‘social friendship’. The term ‘friendship’ calls to mind something mutual and warm which feels less distant, conceptual or philosophical. Francis’ shift in language sheds light on our principles of human dignity, common good, promotion of peace and solidarity using a different tone of voice. He appeals to our hearts just as much as our heads.

Fratelli Tutti also challenges us all to be true ‘people of dialogue’ – to cooperate in building peace “by uniting and not dividing, by extinguishing hatred and not holding on to it, by opening paths of dialogue and not by constructing new walls.” (FT 283).

In the same way *Fratelli Tutti* has a strong emphasis on human dignity, the Beatitudes offer a biblical lens for viewing encounter and community. As such they provide a guide for us to uphold the dignity of all, to name actions and Christian characteristics that help us to foster that culture of encounter for our global family.

Overcoming division and working towards peace are crucial in working toward a culture of encounter. This Social Justice Week let us be challenged by *Fratelli Tutti* to live as people of encounter with hearts that are open to bringing the joy and love of Christ to everyone we meet. The desire of Blessed Charles de Foucauld to “feel himself a brother to every human being” inspired Pope

Francis. “Yet only by identifying with the least did he come at last to be the brother of all. May God inspire that dream in each one of us. Amen.” (FT 287).

✠ John Dew, Cardinal Archbishop of Wellington,
Apostolic Administrator of Palmerston North and NZCBC President

✠ Stephen Lowe, Bishop of Hamilton, NZCBC General Secretary
and Vice-President

✠ Paul Martin, Coadjutor Archbishop of Wellington and
Apostolic Administrator of Christchurch

✠ Michael Dooley, Bishop of Dunedin

✠ Patrick Dunn, Bishop of Auckland

✠ Michael Gielen, Auxiliary Bishop of Auckland

Delving into the theme – A Culture of Encounter: Be the Church

Rukuhia te kaupapa nei – He Ahurea Tūtaki ki Ētahi atu:
Me Noho Ko Koutou te Hāhi

In the midst of this time of change and uncertainty it is tempting to retreat into what we know best. There are many reasons why people can easily get caught within their own bubble and be removed from those around them. The impact of the pandemic, our reliance on technology, a growing culture of individualism and instant gratification are just a few reasons.

But Pope Francis reminds us that “isolation and withdrawal into one’s own interests are never the way to restore hope and bring about renewal. Rather it is closeness; it is the culture of encounter”. (*Fratelli Tutti*, #30.)

All people are made in God’s image and have innate human dignity.

In our day to day lives as we encounter people we need to keep this truth in mind. Today the ability to sit down with others and really listen to them is becoming an art lost in the midst of virtual networks and the narcissism prevalent in what passes for communication today. Pope Francis refers to it as “information without wisdom” (*Fratelli Tutti*, #47).

Love can overcome all fear and provide us with a sound basis for a culture of encounter. Love is the ultimate spiritual measure of a person’s life. As Christians, we need “to recognise that love takes first place; love must never be put at risk, and the greatest danger lies in failing to love.” (1 Cor 13:1-13 and *Fratelli Tutti*, #92.) We are called to be God’s hands and feet, and this requires encountering others and sharing God’s transcending and transforming love – bringing the Church to life!



SECTION 2: JUDGE WĀNANGATIA

Fratelli Tutti

In Pope Francis' 2015 encyclical, *Laudato Si'*, he observed that social cohesion is being threatened in today's world and spoke of the importance of cultivating meaningful relationships with each other.

Pope Francis continued this theme when he released his third encyclical *Fratelli Tutti – Brothers and Sisters all*, based on the theme of fraternity and social friendship. In this encyclical, Pope Francis calls us to build a better world based on fraternal love. He warns all people that “the sense of belonging to a single human family is fading” (*Fratelli Tutti*, #30), and as our world continues to grapple with the COVID-19 pandemic we must not dismiss the sense that we all share a common humanity.

Pope Francis challenges us all to restore a sense of closeness and create paths of renewed encounter. He redirects us to the life of St Francis of Assisi in calling for “a love that transcends the barriers of geography and distance.” (*Fratelli Tutti*, #1.)

With the addition of *Fratelli Tutti*, the body of Catholic social teaching (CST) has deepened further. Showing the importance for applying Christ's teaching to the issues of today, CST principles provide the basis for action in the community as we seek to follow Christ's example. With a focus on fraternity, social friendship, encounter and community, *Fratelli Tutti* explores the CST principles that we highlighted in our SJW resources from last year.

To read *Fratelli Tutti*, visit the Vatican's website: www.vatican.va.

“Each one of us is called to be an artisan of peace, by uniting and not dividing, by extinguishing hatred and not holding on to it, by opening paths of dialogue and not by constructing new walls.”

Fratelli Tutti, #284

The Beatitudes

Ngā Whakapainga a Te Karaiti

For SJW 2021, our resources for schools explore the theme of encounter and community through the lens of the Beatitudes.

Our common humanity requires that we respect and uphold the dignity of each and every human being. In Matthew 5:1-12, Jesus presents the Beatitudes which are at the very heart of his teachings and encourages people to uphold every person's innate human dignity. The Beatitudes reveal the aroha of

Jesus Christ while providing a blueprint, a guide, as well as the actions and qualities needed so that people can encounter and respond to Christ's call to seek the Kingdom or Reign of God – Te Rangatiratanga.

When people choose to live by the Beatitudes, they make choices and develop attitudes that fulfil a love for God and a love for others. This contrasts with those who promote the worldly values of selfishness and power. It means respecting te tapu o Te Atua and te tapu o te tangata by having reverence for all of God's creation.

Jesus takes familiar words, images, ideas and turns them upside down to make people think more deeply about what he is asking them to do. They provide a powerful alternative to values that the world speaks of and gives hope in finding fulfilment through knowing, loving and serving God.

The parish resource pack includes copies of the Beatitudes poster developed as part of the schools resources. The schools resources are available online on our website at: <https://caritas.org.nz/schools/social-justice-week>.



Catholic Social Teaching Principles and Encounter and Community

Ngā Mātāpono Akoranga Pāpori katorika me te Tūtaki, Hapori Hoki

Last year's Social Justice Week resources unpacked the principles of Catholic social teaching (CST). As we discovered, Christ's command for us to love God and love our neighbour is exemplified through the principles of CST. Some relevant CST principles on encounter and community are: human dignity, preferential option for the poor and vulnerable, solidarity, common good and promotion of peace.

Human Dignity • *Te Mana i te Tangata*

Our common humanity requires that we respect and uphold the dignity of each and every human being. All our other rights and responsibilities flow from this dignity. This principle is deemed as the central aspect of our Church's social teaching. The idea that each life has value is shared with International Human Rights which are also universal, inviolable and inalienable.



Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable • *He Whakaaro Nui mō te Hunga Rawakore*



Giving preferential option for the poor compels us to think first of the needs of those who are most vulnerable. The poor and vulnerable have a special place in the kingdom of God. Putting into practice the preferential option for the poor means considering the impact of our own decisions and of public

policy on the most vulnerable members of society.

Solidarity • *Whakawhanaungatanga*

Being in solidarity is recognising others as our brothers and sisters and actively working for their good. In our connected humanity, we are invited to build relationships to understand what life is like for others who are different from us.



Common Good • *He Painga mā te Katoa*



Our actions have an impact on wider society. It is up to every one of us – governments, communities and individuals – to promote the common good. When we make decisions, we should choose to consider the good of all.

Promotion of Peace • *Te Whakatairanga i te Rangimārie*

All peace requires respect for human life, which in turn involves the safeguarding of the dignity and freedom of people. Peace is the fruit of justice and love, and is dependent upon right order among human beings.

Peace I leave with you; my peace I give to you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled, and do not let them be afraid.

John 14:27

For more information on Catholic social teaching, please visit <https://caritas.org.nz/catholic-social-teaching>. You will find more information on the CST principles covered in SJW 2020, some focus issues and stories of hope from across the country which bring each principle to life.

Section 3: ACT MAHIA

Celebration: Ideas for Mass

Te Whākanui: He Whākaaro mō te Miha

Social Justice Week Sunday
– 12th September 2021

Please make use of the following options and adapt them as necessary for your local parish context.



Welcome *He Mihi*

Suggested text that the person welcoming people to Mass may wish to use:

Today marks the beginning of Social Justice Week. This year the focus is on encounter and community with the theme of *A Culture of Encounter: Be the Church*. In Pope Francis' recent encyclical *Fratelli Tutti*, he warns us that our “sense of belonging to a single human family is fading”. This week is an opportunity to restore and maintain a sense of closeness, cultivating meaningful relationships within our community.

Prayer of the Faithful *Ngā Īnoinga a Te Hunga Whakapono*

Feel free to choose any of the suggested intentions and supplement them with your own to reflect the needs of your community.

Leader: *E te Ariki...* **All:** *whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.*

E te Ariki, we pray that all leaders within Aotearoa use their gifts to nurture and strengthen human belonging by promoting the dignity of all within our diverse communities.

We pray for the Church throughout the world: that it may be an example of God's love in our world, spreading peace, speaking out for what is right and bringing comfort to those in need.

We pray for all people in need of someone to listen. May we respond generously with our time and aroha to all we encounter each day.

Readings and Gospel Reflection

He Huriāto mā ngā Pānui me te Rongopai

Feel free to use the homily notes below in whatever way is helpful.

2021 Social Justice Week Sunday | 24th Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Ultimate Culture of Encounter from Fr. John O'Connor, Acting Director, National Liturgy Office – Te Tari ā Motu Mō Nga Ritenga.

“The Lord has opened my ear... let me approach Him.”

“I will walk in the presence of the Lord, in the land of the Living.”

“Faith without works is quite dead.”

“Take up your cross and follow me.”

The teaching of Jesus is focused on encounter with God and therefore requires and inspires a new form of encounter with every other person.

Each Beatitude could well be introduced: Blessed are those who encounter... Blessed are those who encounter poverty, hunger and thirst, grief, humility, suffering.

Across the Christian centuries, and especially in recent decades, wise disciples have repeated and emphasised these themes. Jesus is encountered today when we embrace the difficult realities of life. We follow Jesus not only to the cross, but through the cross. Because of Jesus life's difficulties do not have to remain as an obstacle, a problem and a taste of death. But when lived in encounter with Jesus these unwelcome inevitabilities become a highway for God: an unobstructed passage from divine life to human suffering and an attractive road from the realities of human existence to the reign of God.

This is why the words of dismissal at the end of every Mass begin with the command “GO”. While the Eucharist we gather for each week is essential food for the journey, we are sent from this gathering to live the presence of Jesus with justice in every social encounter.

Parish Newsletter/Notices

Ngā Niupepa ā-Pārihi/Ngā Pānui

You may wish to use this text as a notice in your newsletter or bulletin:

Social Justice Week: 12th – 18th September 2021 A Culture of Encounter: Be the Church

“To restore hope and bring about renewal...it is closeness; it is the culture of encounter.” Fratelli Tutti, p.30, 2020

Each year in September, the New Zealand Catholic Bishops Conference give us Social Justice Week to consider an issue of social justice in New Zealand. This year the theme is *A Culture of Encounter: Be the Church*. As we continue to face the impacts of the pandemic, let us take this opportunity to actively strengthen our community and truly encounter one another.

For resources and more information visit
<https://caritas.org.nz/parishes/social-justice-week>.

Posters and Fratelli Tutti Discussion Guide

Ngā Pānui Whakaahua me te Aratohu Whakawhiti Whakaaro o Fratelli Tutti

We invite you to put the **SJW 2021 poster** up two weeks before Social Justice Week, which takes place from 12 to 18 September this year.

Feel free to use the **Beatitudes poster** from our schools resources during or after Social Justice Week. It has been designed to be used any time of the year.

We have supplied sample copies of the **Fratelli Tutti Discussion Guide** which is for use in your parish by individuals or groups. More copies can be ordered by phone: 04 496 1742 or email: caritas@caritas.org.nz. Digital copies can be downloaded from our website.



Liturgy of the Word with Children

Ko te Ritenga o te Kupu me ngā Tamariki

Introduction

This year in Social Justice Week we are looking at encounter and community and how the Beatitudes give us a guide on how to love God and His people.

Reading – The Beatitudes

Let us listen to the words from the Holy Gospel according to Matthew. *Read Matthew 5:1-12.*

Reflection Questions

- What makes you happy? Can you think of anything that makes you truly happy?
- If someone says that they were truly blessed, what do you think they mean? In what ways are you truly blessed?
- Do any of those examples bring you happiness?



Prayer of the Faithful with Children

Leader: *E te Ariki...* **All:** *whakarongo mai rā ki a mātou.*

We pray Lord, that you help us share your happiness with those we see in our everyday lives.

We pray for people in our school, community, friends and family: may they find comfort when they are sad, strength to stand up for what they believe in and mercy, peace and love for one another.

We pray for the Church throughout the world: may we be an example of God's love in our world, spreading peace, speaking out for what is right and bringing comfort to those in need.

Take Home Activity

There are many prayers and activities to help children engage with this year's Social Justice Week topic, including activities, stories, prayers and videos from our schools' resources. You can find them on our website at: <https://caritas.org.nz/schools/social-justice-week>.

Sent: Social Justice Week Actions

Kua tukua: He whakairo hei mahi mō te wīki o te Whai Tika

Our goal is for communities to feel empowered to take tangible action to foster a culture of encounter during, and most especially, after Social Justice Week. Below are some ideas to help get you started:

Prayer and Contemplation

At the heart of meaningful work and action is a contemplative heart. We encourage parishes to organise discussion or prayer groups to further discuss and delve into *Fratelli Tutti* and the Beatitudes. Consider using our **Fratelli Tutti Discussion Guide** to aid your group in prayer and discussion. Physical copies can be ordered and a digital version is available on our website.

Get to know each other

Introduce yourself to those in your neighbourhood or parish and get to know each other. You may find people in need of help, or others who are passionate about similar causes. To find out about the needs in your wider community, consider talking with organisations such as St Vincent de Paul Society and Catholic Social Services who are already working in the local neighbourhood.

Hold a social event

An easy way to foster community in your parish is to hold a social event. It could be something like hosting a meal, a parish quiz night or a movie night. Creating a relaxed space for dialogue and encounter to happen allows for stronger and deeper connections within your community.

For more practical ideas for yourself, your family and your community, check out the “Living out CST” sections for each of the CST principles on our website: <https://caritas.org.nz/catholic-social-teaching>.

Send us any photos or stories of your parish taking action during Social Justice Week. We would love to hear from you!

Catholic Social Teaching Principles Overview

Tirohanga Whānui ki ngā Akoranga Pāpori Katorika



Human Dignity • Te Mana i te Tangata

Each of us is made in God's image. Every person has an innate human dignity no one can take away.



Common Good • He Painga mā te Katoa

We respect the rights and responsibilities of all people, so that all can flourish.



Participation • Nāu te Rourou, Nāku te Rourou

Each of us has something unique and important to contribute to society. Everyone has a part to play.



Subsidiarity • Mana Whakahaere

Decision-making must happen at the most appropriate level, so all those affected can contribute.



Stewardship • Kaitiakitanga

We are entrusted to care for the gifts that God has given, including the environment, our own personal talents and other resources.



Preferential Option for the Poor and Vulnerable • He Whakaaro Nui mō te Hunga Rawakore

We should feel the need to think first of the needs of those who are most vulnerable.



Solidarity • Whakawhanaungatanga

We recognise others as our brothers and sisters and actively work for their good.



Distributive Justice • Te Tika ka Tohaina

All should have the necessities such as food, shelter, clothing, and access to what is needed for full development.



Promotion of Peace • Te Whakatairanga i te Rangimārie

All peace requires respect for human life, which in turn involves the safeguarding of the dignity and freedom of people.

**Waiho i te
toipoto, kua i
te toiroa**

Let us keep close
together, not
wide apart